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ABSTRACT

The report describes revisions made to the Child Raising Opinion Questionnaire for assessing attitudes toward child rearing in the Mountain-Plains student population. Two new scales were developed for the Questionnaire: one measuring resistance to learning about children in particular and resistance to outside influences in the area of child raising generally; the other measuring confidence/adequacy in dealing with children. In addition, new items were included in the section of the questionnaire dealing with general child raising practice to eliminate the former transparency of the questionnaire items, to shift the score mean in the direction of the scale mean, and to obtain greater variance in responses. The report also includes the revised questionnaire in its new booklet form with the response categories appearing on each page and with a separate answer sheet for recording responses. (JR)

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REVISION OF THE CHILD RAISING OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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AN AFFECTIVE EVALUATION STUDY

PARENT INVOLVEMENT REPORT NO. 3

July, 1975

Author

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This Study is a Product of the
Research Services Divison

David A. Coyle
Director

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INTRODUCTION

The Child Raising Opinion Questionnaire (CROQ), Form E-1 was developed by Conrad and Pollack (1974) for assessing parenting attitudes in the Mountain-Plains popuiation. A subsequent reliability ascessment (Pollack, 1975) indicated an adequate instrument, with two particularly strong scales, but highlighted areas for further development. As a result of that analysis, the CROQ was expanded to include an additional 31 items for the purpose of increased reliability of scales, particularly expansion of Scale E-1-A into two separate scales and replacement of five items on the E-1-D Scale. Additional items designated by the scales for which they were developed and descriptions of the two additional scales are the focus of this report.

NEW SCALES

Scale E-1-A contained items which seemed to belong to two clusters--one measuring resistance to outside influences in child raising and the other measuring the respondents perceived adequacy in dealing with children. In Form E-2 of the CROQ, Scale A measures resistance to learning about children in particular and resistance to outside influences in the area of child raising generally. A new scale was developed, Scale E, using items from the A Scale of Form E-1 plus new items of the same type to measure confidence/adequacy in dealing with children.

ADDED ITEMS

SCALE E-2-A

Question #

63 It's better to make mistakes with your children than to let someone else tell you how to run your family.

Question #

65 One spanking will do a child more good than all the book ideas ever written.

70 My children will turn out fine if other people will leave me and them alone.

72 The way they treat children in school won't work at home.

73 You can't learn anything important about children in school classes.

83 Schools should not teach classes about how to raise children.

86 Nobody can understand a child as well as his/her own parents.

90 Other people should not tell you how to deal with your children.

SCALE E-2-B

61 People who go to jail are there because their parents weren't strict enough.

64 There won't be any problems in the future if people will quit being so easy on their kids.

66 Obedience is the most important thing to teach a child.

78 Children should not question a decision by a parent.

79 Parents should set rules and not allow exceptions.

SCALE E-2-C

71 Parents should teach children what to believe.

75 A parent should plan what his/her child will do in the future.

80 Nothing is more important than attending to the needs of one's children.

84 Children should learn to appreciate their parents.

88 A child should always love his/her parents.

SCALE E-2-D

Question #

67 Children will do better in school if they have frequent stimulation such as trips and programs (educational TV shows for children, parks and and zoos, etc.)

69 Children's intelligence is influenced by the things they have to play with.

74 Parents should always try to answer a child's questions.

77 Children should not be punished for an honest mistake.

81 Children should be included in making family decisions.

SCALE E-2-E

62 Raising children up properly is very hard.

68 I wish I had learned more about children before now.

76 Raising children is a heavy responsibility.

82 They should teach classes about children in high schools.

85 It's hard to find people who can help with child problems.

87 It's easy to get bad advice about children.

89 It's hard to know if things friends tell you about children are really true.

91 I'm afraid I'll make harmful mistakes when dealing with children.

REPLACED ITEMS

Past experience with entering students had indicated a low level of endorsement of elementary child raising psychology concepts. Scale E-1-D (Scale 4) was thus developed with developmentally accurate statements concerning general child raising practice. The total endorsement of these items by respondents and the low variance in responses indicated that the items had been too obvious. Pollack's (1975) analysis

showed that, in fact, those items with the highest means and variances did not scale. The five worst items were thus replaced, and are the only instances where items were deleted from the experimental form. Five new items were also developed and added to the form. The ten new items have the same thrust as the original items, but are intended to be slightly less "transparent" in order to shift the score mean in the direction of the scale mean and to obtain greater variance in responses.

A major problem with a scale of this type on an attitudinal instrument is that for the sophisticated there are clearly objectively correct responses to most items. Thus the scale takes on somewhat aspects of an achievement test and can be easily positively skewed by persons who know the content--whether or not they actually endorse the ideas and concepts they know to be the valued response.

Questionnaire items replaced are as follows:

1. Item 3 with - Parents have more influence on a child's development than schools.
2. Item 10 with - Children's friends are often more important to them than are their parents.
3. Item 14 with - Children like to accept responsibilities in helping adults.
4. Item 52 with - When expressing his opinions, a child should be given as much respect as an adult.
5. Item 57 with - It is more important to praise a child when he does something well than to punish him/her for a mistake.

NEW TEST BOOKLET AND ANSWER SHEET

Form E-2 also differes from Form E-1 in having a test booklet which has response categories defined on each page with responses being recorded on an answer sheet

rather than on the test booklet. The latter change is both for the purpose of materials conservation and for ease in scoring. The form E-2 test booklet and answer sheet are attached.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

As sufficient data accumulates, scales will be reexamined to determine the quality of the new scales and the extent to which the reliability of Scales B, C, and D can be enhanced by replacing the weaker scale items with those newly developed for the scale. A final version of the CROQ will then be developed; probably to include fifty items in five scales. A factor analysis of items is also under consideration for the purpose of identifying response clusters for program redevelopment purposes. However, the factor analytic methodology is not perceived as an appropriate test construction methodology - at least not in this instance.

REFERENCES CITED

Conrad, R. and R. Pollack. Development of an Instrument for the Assessment of Parenting Attitudes. Mountain-Plains Press, Glasgow, MT. August, 1974.

Pollack, R. A Reliability Assessment of the Child Raising Opinion Questionnaire, Form E-1. Mountain-Plains Press, Glasgow, MT. June, 1975.

Child Raising Opinion Questionnaire

Form E-2

Raising, disciplining, and child care in general is a controversial subject. Parents often disagree with each other, and so do the "experts." In order to help us find out more about Mountain-Plains students' ideas about raising children, please answer the questions in this booklet using your own personal ideas. There are no right or wrong answers in the usual sense. Rather, the correct answer in each case is your own personal belief.

Please answer each question by marking the box on the answer sheet that most closely describes the extent to which you agree or disagree with the item using the categories and definitions given below.

AC Agree Completely. I believe that the statement is true at all times and in all circumstances.

AM Agree Mostly. I believe that the statement is true most of the time and in most circumstances.

AS Agree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more true than false, but there are also many times and circumstances where it is false.

DS Disagree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more false than true, but that there are also many times and circumstances where it is true.

DM Disagree Mostly. I believe that the statement is false most of the time and in most circumstances.

DC Disagree Completely. I believe that the statement is false at all times and in all circumstances.

AC	Agree Completely. I believe that the statement is true at all times and in all circumstances.
AM	Agree Mostly. I believe that the statement is true most of the time and in most circumstances.
AS	Agree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more true than false, but there are also many times and circumstances where it is false.
DS	Disagree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more false than true, but that there are also many times and circumstances where it is true.
DM	Disagree Mostly. I believe that the statement is false most of the time and in most circumstances.
DC	Disagree Completely. I believe that the statement is false at all times and in all circumstances.

1. Studying children is a waste of time.
2. Any time a child destroys any property, he/she should be strongly punished.
3. Parents have more influence on a child's development than schools.
4. Modern children talk back to their parents too much.
5. Parents should make their children the most important thing in life.
6. Dealing with children is a natural talent, it cannot be learned.
7. Children need to feel that the things they do are important to their parents.
8. Parents should regularly find TV shows with educational value for their children to watch.
9. Children should not be assigned to tasks and chores until they are teenagers.
10. Children's friends are often more important to them than are their parents.
11. Children are people too, and thus have rights of their own.
12. Book ideas about kids will not work in real life.
13. Parents should play with their children whenever the child asks them to.
14. Children like to accept responsibilities in helping adults.
15. Children need to feel that they can accomplish things - even without their parent's help.
16. Discipline is the Father's responsibility.
17. Children live in a world of their own that nobody understands.

AC	Agree Completely. I believe that the statement is true at all times and in all circumstances.
AM	Agree Mostly. I believe that the statement is true most of the time and in most circumstances.
AS	Agree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more true than false, but there are also many times and circumstances where it is false.
DS	Disagree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more false than true, but that there are also many times and circumstances where it is true.
DM	Disagree Mostly. I believe that the statement is false most of the time and in most circumstances.
DC	Disagree Completely. I believe that the statement is false at all times and in all circumstances.

18. Children owe their parents respect and obedience no matter what.

19. My parents made a lot of mistakes when they were raising me.

20. If a child criticizes a parent, it is a sure sign that the parent is failing his responsibility as a parent.

21. I don't understand children very well.

22. The worst thing that can happen in life is to have a child that doesn't show love to his/her parents.

23. Parents should sacrifice everything else for their child.

24. A child should share his parent's beliefs.

25. The most important thing to teach a child is discipline.

26. Children need to make and build things.

27. Parents should give their children as many gifts and toys as they can afford.

28. A child should never question orders from a parent.

29. Parents should only buy the best things for their children.

30. Reading to young children regularly is important.

31. Parents should always have the kinds of food that their children like.

32. You can learn a lot about children by watching them.

33. Parents do not need to explain why when saying "no" to a child.

34. The "experts" who write books about children would completely change their story if they tried to use book stuff on a real kid.

AC	Agree Completely. I believe that the statement is true at all times and in all circumstances.
AM	Agree Mostly. I believe that the statement is true most of the time and in most circumstances.
AS	Agree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more true than false, but there are also many times and circumstances where it is false.
DS	Disagree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more false than true, but that there are also many times and circumstances where it is true.
DM	Disagree Mostly. I believe that the statement is false most of the time and in most circumstances.
DC	Disagree Completely. I believe that the statement is false at all times and in all circumstances.

35. Most of todays troubles are because people back in the 1940's did not discipline their kids.

36. Parents should choose occupations for their children.

37. Children should learn to be grateful for all the things their parents do for them.

38. You can learn a lot about people by watching the way their kids act.

39. The best idea anyone every had about kids is the old saying, "Spare the rod and spoil the child."

40. Children who always obey grow up to be the best adults.

41. A child's life should be made as pleasant as possible.

42. Getting dirty is not only natural for kids, but good for them too.

43. Parents should teach children to do things themselves rather than doing things for them.

44. Children should do what they are told without arguing.

45. You must have children of your own in order to understand them.

46. The best toys are those that are educational too - not just fun.

47. Parents own children just like they own their car or TV set.

48. Teachers don't really know any more about kids than I do.

49. Children should never be allowed to stay up past their bedtime.

50. Good parents overlook their children's shortcomings.

51. Most parents are too permissive and easy with their children.

AC	Agree Completely. I believe that the statement is true at all times and in all circumstances.
AM	Agree Mostly. I believe that the statement is true most of the time and in most circumstances.
AS	Agree Slightly. I believe that the statement is more true than false, but there are also many times and circumstances where it is false.
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DM	Disagree Mostly. I believe that the statement is false most of the time and in most circumstances.
DC	Disagree Completely. I believe that the statement is false at all times and in all circumstances.

52. When expressing his opinions, a child should be given as much respect as an adult.

53. The only really effective discipline method is spanking.

54. I need help in dealing with children.

55. A child's curiosity should be encouraged.

56. You can learn a lot about children by reading books about them.

57. It is more important to praise a child when he does something well than to punish him/her for a mistake.

58. I need to learn more about children.

59. Friends and playmates are never as important to children as parents.

60. You can learn a lot about children by talking to other parents.

61. People who go to jail are there because their parents weren't strict enough.

62. Raising children up properly is very hard.

63. It's better to make mistakes with your children than to let someone else tell you how to run your family.

64. There won't be any problems in the future if people will quit being so easy on their kids.

65. One spanking will do a child more good than all the book ideas ever written.

66. Obedience is the most important thing to teach a child.

67. Children will do better in school if they have frequent stimulation such as trips and programs (educational TV shows for children, parks and zoos, etc.)

AC	Agree Completely. I believe that the statement is true at all times and in all circumstances.
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68. I wish I had learned more about children before now.

69. Children's intelligence is influenced by the things they have to play with.

70. My children will turn out fine if other people will leave me and them alone.

71. Parents should teach children what to believe.

72. The way they treat children in school won't work at home.

73. You can't learn anything important about children in school classes.

74. Parents should always try to answer a child's questions.

75. A parent should plan what his/her child will do in the future.

76. Raising children is a heavy responsibility.

77. Children should not be punished for an honest mistake.

78. Schools should not teach classes about how to raise children.

79. Parents should set rules and not allow exceptions.

80. Nothing is more important than attending to the needs of one's children.

81. Children should be included in making family decisions.

82. They should teach classes about children in high schools.

83. Children should not question a decision by a parent.

84. Children should learn to appreciate their parents.

85. It's hard to find people who can help with child problems.

86. Nobody can understand a child as well as his/her own parents.

AC	Agree Completely. I believe that the statement is true at all times and in all circumstances.
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DM	Disagree Mostly. I believe that the statement is false most of the time and in most circumstances.
DC	Disagree Completely. I believe that the statement is false at all times and in all circumstances.

87. It's easy to get bad advice about children.

88. A child should always love his/her parents.

89. It's hard to know if things friends tell you about children are really true.

90. Other people should not tell you how to deal with your children.

91. I'm afraid I'll make harmful mistakes when dealing with children.

NAME _____ FAMILY PAY NO. _____

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CHECK ONLY ONE RESPONSE FOR EACH ITEM

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